

## **HSR&D Centers of Excellence Solicitation Summary Sheet**

**Purpose:** HSR&D will consider funding up to three new Centers of Excellence. Applications are encouraged to advance science in the following themes:

1. Enhancing organization, management, and leadership;
2. Integration of evidence-based practices into routine clinical and administrative operations;
3. Development, implementation, and evaluation of processes and structures designed to improve patient and provider decisions.

Other related thematic areas may be acceptable, but the selected theme should be well-justified in terms of its importance.

### **Funds available:**

Up to \$700,000 per year

\$100,000 start-up for initial infrastructure expenses in the first year

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- 1) CoE director or associate director must be a physician with salary to be contributed by Program 870, Medical Care funds;
- 2) CoE director (as well as any associate director) should have at least a 5/8ths VA appointment and plan to dedicate at least half time (.5 FTEE) to Center leadership;
- 3) The application must be endorsed by the medical center director and VISN director;
- 4) No more than two applications from any VISN are allowed.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Applications are peer-reviewed based on the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) Relevance and potential importance to HSR&D and VHA;
- 2) Quality and appropriateness of proposed projects;
- 3) Health services research qualifications and capability of the team;
- 4) Actual and potential VA and non-VA collaborators (including any specific recruitment plans);
- 5) Overall assessment of value added by providing CoE core support.

**Site Visits.** Site(s) perceived by the scientific reviewers to have the greatest potential will be given a combined scientific and administrative site visit to inform the final funding decision.

**Funding Decisions:** Funding decisions will be made by the Director, HSR&D, based upon a site's potential for making a substantial contribution to HSR&D and VHA.

### **Schedule:**

Notification of Intent to Apply Due  
Applications Due

11/15/2003  
1/15/2004

Scientific Review of Application Completed	3/19/2004
Selected Site Visits Conducted	4/1/2004 – 4/9/2004
Response to Review Recommendations	5/22/2004 –
5/23/2004	
Final Notification Letters Mailed	6/15/2004
Funding	7/1/2004

**Inquiries:** Questions may be directed to Phil Crewson, PhD, at 202-254-0220 or [philip.crewson@hq.med.va.gov](mailto:philip.crewson@hq.med.va.gov).